

CLAIMS

1. (currently amended): A method to deliver a desired agent selectively to a target site in a subject, which method comprises administering, ~~substantially~~ simultaneously, to said subject:

(1) an active composition of targeted ~~particulate vehicles~~ halocarbon and/or hydrocarbon nanoparticles wherein said ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles are coupled to a ligand that binds specifically to its cognate at the target site and wherein said ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles comprise, or are themselves, the agent to be delivered; and

(2) an inactive carrier which comprises ~~particulate vehicles~~ halocarbon and/or hydrocarbon nanoparticles which lack said binding ligand and which optionally lack said agent;

wherein the ratio of ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the carrier of (2) to ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the composition of (1) is sufficient to enhance the association of the active composition with target site, and/or to lower the required dosage of targeted ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles.

2. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ratio of ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the carrier (2) to ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the composition of (1) is at least 1:1.

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ratio of ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the carrier (2) to ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the composition of (1) is at least 100:1.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the carrier of (2) and the ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the composition of (1) are of the same composition.

6. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein the ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the carrier of (2) and the ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles in the composition of (1) are not of the same composition.

7. (currently amended): The method of claim 1 wherein either the carrier of (2) ~~or the composition of (1) or both~~ is comprised of ~~vehicles~~ nanoparticles that are not of the same composition, or the composition of (1) is comprised of nanoparticles that are not of the same composition or both are comprised of nanoparticles that are not of the same composition.

8. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein at least one said agent is selected from the group consisting of a contrast agent for ultrasound; a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) agent; a radionuclide; a therapeutic agent; and a fluorophore.

9. (original): The method of claim 1 wherein the ligand that binds to cognate is an antibody or fragment thereof or is a peptidomimetic.

10. (original): The method of claim 9 wherein said moiety targets $\alpha_v\beta_3$.

11-31. (canceled)

32. (new): The method of claim 1 which further includes obtaining an ultrasound image of said target site.

33. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein the agent to be delivered is a chelating agent containing a transition metal ion and wherein said method further includes obtaining a magnetic resonance image of said target site.

34. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein the agent is a visible label and which method further includes obtaining an optical image of said target site.

35. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein the agent is an X-ray opaque ligand and which method further comprises obtaining an X-ray image of said target site.

36. (new): The method of claim 1 wherein the agent comprises ^{19}F and which method further comprises obtaining a ^{19}F magnetic resonance image of said target site.